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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/069,523	06/12/2002	Shogo Ishioka	020238	9379

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EXAMINER
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LAIR, DONALD M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2858

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/069,523

Applicant(s)

ISHIOKA ET AL.

Examiner

Donald M. Lair

Art Unit

2858

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2003.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 June 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Claims 1-9 in the Response to Election, filed on 12/23/03, is acknowledged.
2. Claims 10-16 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Response to Election, filed on 12/23/03.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).
5. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishioka et al. (US-6,703,849).

Art Unit: 2858

6. In regards to Claims 1 and 9, Ishioka et al. disclose an inspection apparatus for inspecting a circuit wiring of a circuit board, said inspection apparatus comprising:

a conductive member adapted to be disposed on the side of one of the surfaces of said circuit board and to be supplied with an inspection signal (Fig. 2, element 12; Column 3, lines 51 – 57);

means for supplying the inspection signal to said conductive member (Fig. 1, element 2);

a plurality of cells adapted to be disposed on the side of the other surface of said circuit board with opposing to said conductive member (Fig. 2, element 13; Column 4, lines 64-67); and

means for acquiring each signal appearing at said cells in response to said inspection signal applied to said conductive member (Column 5, lines 18 – 20).

7. In regards to Claim 2, Ishioka et al. disclose the inspection apparatus described above, wherein said conductive member includes a surface formed in conformity with said one surface of said circuit board, and said cells are two-dimensionally arranged in conformity with said other surface of said circuit board (Column 4, lines 21 – 26).

8. In regards to Claim 3, Ishioka et al. disclose the inspection apparatus described above, wherein said conductive member has a flat plate shape (Figs. 1 and 2, element 11; Column 4, lines 32 and 33).

9. In regards to Claim 4, Ishioka et al. disclose the inspection apparatus described above, wherein said conductive member is composed of a plurality of conductive pieces (Figs. 1 and 2, element 11).

10. In regards to Claim 5, Ishioka et al. disclose the inspection apparatus described above, wherein said cells are arranged in a matrix form (Fig. 2, element 11; Column 4, lines 32 and 33).

Art Unit: 2858

11. In regards to Claim 6, Ishioka et al. disclose the inspection apparatus described above, which further includes:

means for generating image data representing the position and shape of said circuit wiring, according to the signals appearing at said cells and means for displaying the image (Column 5, lines 29 – 32).

12. In regards to Claim 7, Ishioka et al. disclose the inspection apparatus described above, which further includes storing means having thereon stored wiring data representing the position and shape of said circuit wiring (Column 7, lines 53 – 61).

13. In regards to Claim 8, Ishioka et al. disclose the inspection apparatus described above, which further includes:

storing means having thereon stored wiring data representing the position and shape of the circuit wiring (Column 7, lines 53 – 61);

means for detecting a disconnection, short-circuit or chipping in said circuit wiring, or a dust on said circuit board according to the signal appearing at said cells and said wiring data (Column 3, lines 55 – 57).

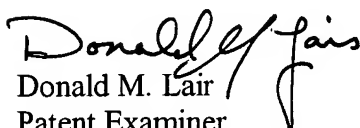
Art Unit: 2858


***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald M. Lair whose telephone number is (571) 272-2232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, N. Le can be reached on (571) 272-2233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Donald M. Lair  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2858  
March 30, 2004

  
**N. Le**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Technology Center 2800**